

REMARKSAmendments

In the descriptive part of the specification, various headings have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. In the claims, various minor errors resulting from the translation have been corrected, and claim 5 has been rewritten for clarity.

Disclosure Under 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/JP2003/010948 which is a counterpart for this application. The documents were cited in category "X" as a "document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone", and/or category "Y", as a "document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art". A copy of an English translation of the Search Report is attached.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Category</u>
1091366 A1	04/2001	Europe	H01C 7/02	Tyco Electronics Corporation (counterpart of JP 2001- 102039A & US 6362721 B1)	X, Y

WO 98/20567A	05/1998	International	H01M 2/34	Raychem Corporation (counterpart of JP 2001-503561A & US 5856773A)	X, Y
2-117662	09/1990	Japan	H01M 6/50	Fuji Denki Kagaku KK	X, Y
3-77263A	04/1991	Japan	H01M 2/02	Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.	X, Y
7-57721A	03/1995	Japan	H01M/2/34	Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.	Y
5-325942A	12/1993	Japan	H01M 2/34	Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.	Y
2001-216883A	08/2001	Japan	H01H 85/00	Sony Corporation	Y
WO 00/16429A	03/2000	International	H01M 10/48	Raychem Ltd. (counterpart of JP 2002-525806)	Y
2002-56755A	02/2002	Japan	H01H 37/54	Furukawa Seimitsu Kinzoku Kogyo KK	Y

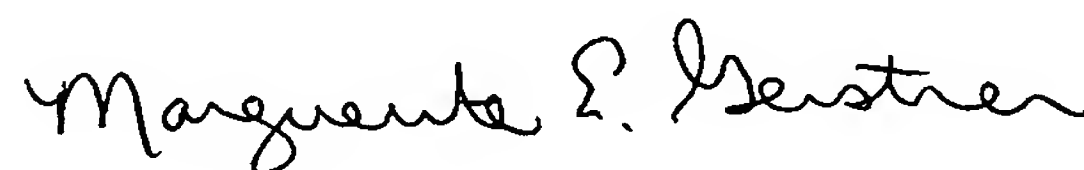
Copies of Documents

In accordance with the notice published in the Official Gazette on November 23, 1993 (1156 OG 91), copies of these documents are not being submitted as Applicants believe that copies have been made available to the Examiner for the national stage application. If this is incorrect, Applicants will readily supply copies. These documents are, however, listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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